

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042324

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 2923 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE
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QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIETS MOVE BACK INTO MIDDLE EAST PICTURE

1. GROMYKO ARRIVAL IN SYRIA FEBRUARY 27 GIVES APPEARANCE OF
PUTTING SOVIETS BACK IN MIDDLE EAST PLAY. TASS
REPORT (CARRIED IN MAJOR DAILIES FEBRUARY 28)
FEATURES HIS STATEMENT STRESSING CLOSENESS OF
SOVIET-SYRIAN TIES AND NEED FOR UNITED AND
COORDINATED EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF ME SETTLEMENT. BY
CONTRAST PRESS CONFINES COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S TRIP
TO REPORT OF HIS ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS FEBRUARY 26,
LEAVING READER WITH IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY AND
GROMYKO ARE BOTH IN SYRIAN CAPITAL.

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3. IN PROBABLE BUILD UP FOR GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EGYPT
PRAVDA ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENTS BOL'SHAKOV AND
GLUKHOV USES STATEMENTS BY EGYPTIAN ASU LEADERS TO BEAT
DRUMS OF CLOSE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION. ARTICLE
CITES SEVERAL ASU LEADERS AS THANKING SOVIETS FOR THEIR
SUPPORT DURING THE OCTOBER WAR AND QUOTES ASU CENTRAL
COMMITTEE FIRST SECRETARY HAFEZ GANEM TO EFFECT THAT
OCTOBER WAR SHOWED U.S. -SOVIET DETENTE IS NOT TAKING
PLACE AT OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPENSE. THAT POINT MADE,
ARTICLE TAKES ANTI-U.S. SLANT. IT SAYS ENEMIES OF
EGYPT HAVE TRIED TO SOW DISTRUST OF USSR AND CITES
ASU IDEOLOGIST RIFFAT AL MAKHGUB'S STATEMENT THAT
ASU PROPAGANDISTS HAVE BEEN COUNTERING SUCH EFFORTS
BY EXPLAINING THAT U.S. IS EMBODIMENT OF IMPERIALISM
WHILE USSR IS IMPERIALISM'S ENEMY.
STOESSEL UNQTE CASEY

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